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Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study Team Seeks Public Input

Proposed Rail Alternatives Presented November 16, 17 & 18, 2004

RICHMOND - The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) invites the public to attend one of three regional meetings to discuss initial findings of the Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study. DRPT, along with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is evaluating the feasibility of higher speed passenger rail service between Richmond and Hampton Roads. At the November meetings, the study team will share with citizens the results from the study kick off meetings as well as present potential rail alignments and station locations.

This is an opportunity for the public to help shape the future of transportation in Southeastern Virginia. Higher speed passenger rail service between Richmond and Hampton Roads could provide commuters and travelers with another way to reach their destinations by providing rail connections to the Southeast, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions as an extension of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.

As a result of public and agency input thus far, the study team has been studying the following passenger rail options. Details of these will be discussed at the upcoming meetings so that they can be further narrowed and a final recommendation made. (See attached map pdf)

Preliminary Alignment Alternatives:

- Peninsula/CSX Alignment (Richmond to Newport News Corridor)
- James River Alignment (Richmond to Newport News to Norfolk Corridor)
- **Southside–Norfolk Southern Alignment** (Richmond to Petersburg to Norfolk Corridor via Norfolk Southern)
- Southside–US 460 New Alignment (Richmond to Petersburg to Norfolk Corridor via new US 460 Corridor)

(more)

Richmond/Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study - page 2:

The open house meetings will take place from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. with two brief presentations scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

November 16, 2004 Newport News

City Center Conference Facilities James and Warwick Rooms 700 Town Center Drive

November 17, 2004 *Norfolk*

Norfolk Airport Hilton Ballrooms C&D 1500 North Military Highway

November 18, 2004 *Richmond*

Main Street Station 1500 East Main Street

Those unable to attend a meeting may send their written comments by mail to: Mr. Alan Tobias, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, P.O. Box 590, Richmond, VA 23218-0590 or by e-mail to: comments@rich2hrrail.info. To comment by phone, call the study's toll-free information line at 1-877-742-4247 (statewide TDD at 711). Comments need to be received by January 3, 2005. Additional information may be obtained from the study web site at www.rich2hrrail.info.

About DRPT

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation funds and directs improvements to the Washington to Richmond higher speed rail corridor. DRPT also is responsible for providing funding and technical assistance to two major and nine shortline freight railroads, more than 40 public transit agencies, including passenger rail and commuter rail, 15 commuter assistance programs, and to more than 50 specialized transportation service providers in the Commonwealth. DRPT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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Attachment:
Preliminary Alternatives Map sent with release